

Sinclair  
Broadcasting's  
decision to force  
their stations to  
air an anti-Kerry  
documentary days  
before the election  
is a clear example  
of the dangers of  
media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the  
public airwaves free  
of charge, and is  
obligated by law to  
serve the public  
interest. But when  
large companies  
control the  
airwaves, we get  
more of what's good  
for the bottom line  
and less of what we  
need for our  
democracy. Instead  
of something  
produced at "News  
Central" far away,  
it's more important  
that we see real  
people from our own  
communities and more  
substantive news  
about issues that  
matter.

Sinclair's actions  
show why we need to  
strengthen media  
ownership rules, not  
weaken them. They  
show why the license  
renewal process  
needs to involve  
more than a returned  
postcard.

If this documentary  
is to be shown,  
Sinclair should at  
least be required to  
provide equal time  
to a pro-Kerry  
documentary like  
"Going Upriver". By  
equal time, I mean  
mean the same amount  
of broadcast time  
and the same time  
slot where this  
documentary can be  
seen by the same  
amount of people as  
the anti-Kerry one.  
If possible, both

sides should be  
allowed to broadcast  
rebuttal programs.

Thank you.